

2011/12 Season Weeks 9 - 12

Match Reports – Division Two

Strines Crusaders 3 v 7 Old Glossop Conservatives

An enjoyable evening, with Ian acting a team manager, providing pithy encouragement and disbelief in equal measure. Harry excelled for the visitors, winning all 3; Matt won 1, and Pete 2. Although the visitors won 7 – 3, only one match was decided in three. The end result was finish so late that a seasonal drink at the local hostelry had to be abandoned.

Old Glossop Conservatives 5 v 5 Glossop Bandits C

Yet another tight-fought match, and all agreed that this was a fair result. Peter Roberts had all three for the Bandits, whilst Peter Woodland and Mike won two each for the Tories. Game of the night was Ian 'v' Adam, where Adam came from two down to win 16 – 14 in the fifth. It was good seeing a young player coming through, and I'm already worried about next year. However, as I coach Adam at cricket in the summer, I'll see if I can stop him playing next year or try and poach him like I did last summer!

Hyde YMCA 'B' 3 v 7 Hyde YMCA Holl. B Res.

An incredible 825 points were contested in a high quality encounter in which HYMBR came out on top 7 – 3. Dennis Bradshaw proved too good for any of the Hyde YMCA 'B' players. Martyn Capper was the only singles victor for the 'B' team. Harry Garside suffered a first for him in the Glossop League – a triple loss! Some brilliant rallies and excellent matches in a very enjoyable evening.

Hyde Cricket Club 6 v 4 Glossop Conservative Club A

Another treble for Les. What an acquisition he has turned out to be for us. I never came across Les in his younger days, when he played for Hyde Road in the Manchester League, but I bet he was one hell of a player. He was certainly too hot for Dave, Norman and Eddie who had no answer to his forehand and backhand top-spin smashes. Such is Les's enthusiasm that he wants Ian and me up for extra practice next Tuesday. As we were both involved in titanic five-setters, which we both lost to Dave and Eddie, I suppose it is a just punishment. Poor Norman had a night to forget. He said it was his first visit to the club since he last came to play cricket with Glossop in the 70s. I'll bet the result tonight brought it all back to him – sorry Norman. My game with Eddie really could have gone either way, but I blew it in the fifth with some wayward serving. Ian's five-setter with Dave was a curious affair as there was nothing between them in the first three games, then Ian romped away in the fourth and we thought the fifth was a mere formality. So did Ian, but Dave had merely been taking a breather and he stormed back to eventually take the match. An enjoyable night's tennis.

Romiley Cricket Club B 8 v 2 Hyde YMCA 'B'

Another good night for the cricketers with Jepson 3, Fowler 2, and Wood 2, defeating their Hyde neighbours. Harry Garside defeated Fowler, and Wood, in three, and just failed in the doubles with Peter Green against Fowler and Wood – going down 12 – 14 in the fifth.

Glossop Conservative Club A 3 v 7 Stanley Square C

Stanley Square won 7 – 3 with Ian Robinson winning 3, Ian Dagnall 2, and Lilian 1. Eddie won 2 for the 'A' team.

Hyde YMCA Holl. B Res. 7 v 3 Old Glossop Conservatives

A good night's table tennis. Dave Winterbottom had a good steady night, winning his match against Mike Stansfield. The evening finished with a good doubles match – Peter and Mike taking it, 11 – 8 in the fifth, against Neil and Dave.

Hyde Cricket Club 4 v 6 Strines Dragons

Why do I always have nightmares the night before I play Pat? Woke up last night in a cold sweat ... my pillow had turned to pimples and no matter how many times I threw it from the bed ... it returned! Come the night of the match, I had formulated a plan to beat Pat. I would change my game, not in the first game, but in the second, taking him by surprise so to say. And, you know, it nearly worked. I lost the second 14 – 16, but if I had won it, well, who knows! Problem was, in the third I'd forgotten which way I should have

been playing and I got blown away. Game of the night was Les 'v' Peter, and it really was worth the admission fee! Les stormed the first two games, but I sensed Peter was analysing Les's style and, sure enough, he changed his game quite subtly, slowed it down a little, and wore Les down to the extent that he made more errors in the last two games than he has all season. Ian had his usual titanic duel with Pat, but it had the usual denouement – a win for Pat. Alan, returning to his former club – or should I say one of them – was shown little mercy and was despatched win-less. We needed the doubles to share the points, but some poor captaining from the skipper (me!) meant that I elected to play Bill, our No.4, not realising that he had been imbibing the amber liquid, and the points slipped away. Ah well! A good night's tennis.

Old Glossop Conservatives 10 v 0 Glossop Conservative Club A

Old Glossop Tories got back to winning ways with this emphatic win over Tories 'A'. The result, however, does not reflect how close the games were, with all the luck going the way of Old Glossop.

Hollingworth C 3 v 7 Hyde Cricket Club

(report by Lee Brown) I don't know if other players have favourite venues but I certainly do. Hollingworth is one of my favourites and I always play well on their table – in fact I'm going to buy it! It also features favourably with Les and Ian, as a 7 – 3 win proved. The scoreline tells porkies though, as four of the matches went to five, and it could have easily finished in a draw. Les's game with Dave was the highlight, with Les taking the first two, but Dave stormed back to take the next three in fine style. His consistency and accuracy was unerring, and he forced Les into taking far more chances than he would normally do – and he paid the price. Fantastic game to watch. Both Ian and I had five-setters with Mike, which we both won despite his lethal returning of our best smashes! Lee Chapman was relegated to 'naughty corner' for most of the night as he recommended the bowling club be demolished because it was old! There's no hope for me, Les and Bill then – combined age 200!

Strines Crusaders 2 v 8 Romiley Cricket Club B

What looks on paper as an easy win for Romily could have been quite different. Only four matches were decided in three – Peter Jepson's three, inevitably. All Tom Fowler's matches, including the doubles, went to 5, and he won three of them. Any of them could have gone the other way. Adrian Bellis won a match on an evening when Gordon Bickley won none. The star in the East is clearly ascending! But such happenings are rare indeed. A very pleasant evening – and a late finish for those who needed to get up early on Tuesday.

Glossop Bandits C 5 v 5 Hyde YMCA Holl. B Res.

The match both teams had been looking forward to. Both teams were at full strength. There were lots of long, hard-fought matches, with the highlight of the night being the match between Peter and Dennis. Dennis prevailed after a good start from Peter. A really enjoyable match – everybody won something.